

## Message Text

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44

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01

NIC-01 DRC-01 /137 W

----- 125230

R 071615Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4815

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 5471

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB GR

SUBJ: LABOR: ICFTU SECRETARY GENERAL KERSTEN CARRIES

OUT ACTIVE SCHEDULE IN ATHENS

REF ATHENS 5443

1. ICFTU SECRETARY GENERAL KERSTEN HAD FULL DAY OF  
ACTIVITY AUGUST 6 IN COURSE OF HIS VISIT TO ATHENS.  
HE CALLED BOTH ON PM CARAMANLIS AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/  
FM MAVROS. KERSTEN ASSURED PM OF ICFTU'S UNLIMITED  
SUPPORT FOR EVERY EFFORT OF CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT TO  
SOLVE PROBLEMS CREATED BY MILITARY DICTATORSHIP.  
ADDITIONALLY, KERSTEN ASSURED PM THAT ICFTU WILL USE  
EVERY MEANS TO SEE IMPLEMENTED UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
ON CYPRUS AS WELL AS DETAILS OF GENEVA AGREEMENT.

2. LATER IN THE DAY, KERSTEN STAGED PRESS CONFERENCE  
AT HILTON HOTEL AT WHICH FOLLOWING THEMES TOUCHED  
UPON: A) ICFTU WILL SEND TO GREECE COMMITTEE OF  
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EXPERTS TO ASSIST IN FORMULATING NEW LABOR LEGISLATION;

B) ICFTU WILL ALSO PROVIDE SPECIAL GROUP OF

INSTRUCTORS FOR TRAINING WORKERS IN VARIOUS ASPECTS  
OF TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES.

3. KERSTEN ALSO REVEALED DURING COURSE OF DAY A "PLAN"  
OF GREEK MINISTER OF LABOR LASKARIS WHICH PROVIDES  
FOR A) ABOLITION OF THE ADMINISTRATIONS OF ALL  
LABOR ORGANIZATIONS NOT ELECTED DEMOCRATICALLY AND  
B) THE REPLACEMENT OF ALL TRADE UNION LAWS REPEALED  
SINCE 1967 AND THE PREPARATION OF A NEW LEGISLATIVE  
FRAMEWORK CONFORMING TO INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONVENTIONS.  
COMMENT: NO EXPLANATION GIVEN BY KERSTEN WHY MINISTER  
LASKARIS HIMSELF DID NOT REVEAL HIS OWN PLAN.

4. KERSTEN AND HIS DELEGATION ALSO MET WITH THE  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE GREEK DEKE (DEMOCRATIC ANTI-  
DICTATORIAL TRADE UNION MOVEMENT). DURING MEETING,  
GENERAL CONSENSUS REACHED ON NEED FOR GENERAL RESHAPING  
AND RESTRUCTURE OF LABOR MOVEMENT IN GREECE AND  
ADAPTATION OF LABOR LEGISLATION TO MEET INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARDS. IN COURSE SAME DAY, DEKE ANNOUNCED  
ITS SUPPORT OF CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT IN ITS TASK  
OF "CLEANSING THE LABOR UNIONS", AND REINSTATMENT  
OF OUSTED OFFICIALS. ALSO ON AUGUST 6 ICFTU  
DELEGATION MET WITH COMMITTEE OF TRADE UNIONS WHOSE  
ORGANIZATIONS HAD BEEN DISSOLVED BY THE FORMER  
MILITARY REGIME (THE SO-CALLED "115 GROUP"). THE "115"  
COMMITTEE PRESENTED ICFTU DELEGATION WITH MEMORANDUM  
DEMANDING ITS DISSOLVED UNIONS BE  
REESTABLISHED, THEIR ADMINISTRATIONS REINSTATED  
AND THE DISSOLUTION OF THOSE ELEMENTS OF "SECURITY  
SERVICES" WHICH INTERVENE IN THE TRADE UNION  
MOVEMENT.

5. AS IF PERHAPS TO REGAIN INITIATIVE FROM  
MOMENTUM OF ICFTU DELEGATION, GSEE ADMINISTRATION  
SENT CABLE TO ICFTU HEADQUARTERS BRUSSELS  
AUGUST 6 IN WHICH IT POINTS OUT THAT THE CURRENT  
GREEK GOVERNMENT DOES NOT "RESPECT TRADE UNION  
FREEDOM AND INSTEAD INTERVENES IN LABOR MOVEMENT".  
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KERSTEN SUBSEQUENTLY CHARACTERIZED CABLE AS  
"LAUGHABLE" AND REPEATED ONCE MORE (SEE REFTEL)  
THAT ICFTU DOES NOT RECOGNIZE GSEE.

6. COMMENT: IT EVIDENT THAT A PRIME PURPOSE OF  
KERSTEN'S VISIT HERE IS TO LEND ITS WEIGHT TO THE  
ATTEMPTS OF "FREE TRADE UNIONISTS" IN GREECE TO  
TOPPLE THE CURRENT GSEE LEADERSHIP. IT NOW APPEARS  
THAT GSEE ACQUIRING A FORMIDABLE AND CURIOUSLY  
VARIEGATED ARRAY OF OPPONENTS IN ITS EFFORTS TO

REMAIN THE SPOKESMAN FOR GREEK LABORERS, I.E. THE  
ICFTU, THE DEKE, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE "115" AND THE  
GOG ITSELF IN THE PERSON OF MINISTER LASKARIS. TASCA

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## Message Attributes

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